

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-08-21

Issued at Nome, Alaska
November 16, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
December 1, 2021

Expiration Date: June 30, 2022

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the State of Alaska winter season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM844 in Unit 22(A) Central during the period December 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022 with a harvest quota of 15 antlered bull moose. The RM844 hunt area includes that portion of Unit 22(A) in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of and including the Egavik Creek drainage. The winter season will close January 31, 2022 or by a subsequent emergency order if the harvest quota is reached before the season closing date in regulation.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in a portion of Unit 22(A):

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
...		
Unit 22(A), that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of and including the Egavik Creek drainage		
1 bull by registration permit only; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30	No open season

1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Dec. 1- Jan. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order

Dec. 1 – Jan. 31

No open season

...

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Bill Dunker
Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Moose hunting seasons in Unit 22(A) Central were closed from 2005-2007 in response to declines in moose abundance. During this time, the population grew and in November of 2007 the Alaska Board of Game adopted regulations establishing a registration moose hunt with a harvest quota to prevent overharvest. Since that time, the population continued to grow with an estimated 9% annual rate of growth between 2012 and 2017. The 2017 spring moose abundance survey estimated 840 moose (90% CI: 747-933). The department completed a moose abundance survey in Unit 22(A) Central in the spring of 2021 resulting in an estimated abundance of 766 moose (90% CI: 643-888), with 10% recruitment. These results suggest that the population has remained stable 2017-2021.

Post-hunt fall moose composition surveys completed in Unit 22(A) Central in 2016 and 2020 indicated that the bull:cow ratio is well above the management objective and additional harvest from the area is warranted.

Following, a record high harvest of 47 bull moose during the RY2020 fall RM841 hunt, the winter RM844 hunt was opened by emergency order December 7, 2020-January 31, 2021. In total, 15 permits were issued for the hunt, 8 hunters participated in the hunt and 1 moose was harvested.

During RY2021 the department administered registration permit hunt RM841 September 1-September 30. Based on the average reported harvest RY2017-RY2020 and recent estimates of sex ratios within the hunt area, the RM841 registration moose hunt was administered without a harvest quota for the first time since hunting in the area resumed in 2008. This further liberalized the fall hunting opportunity following a trend of incremental

liberalizations that have been adopted through time since the RM841 registration moose hunt was first administered.

The current reported harvest following the completion of the fall RM841 registration permit hunt is below the estimated harvestable surplus for the hunt area and the department has determined that providing additional harvest opportunity is warranted at this time.

DISTRIBUTION:

This Emergency Order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Nome.

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 - Deputy Director
 - Assistant Directors
 - Regional Supervisors
 - Regulation Coordination Team
 - Area Offices Statewide
 - Information Management Section, Anchorage, Douglas, Juneau
 - Public Communication/Information, Anchorage, Fairbanks
 - Federal Subsistence Liaison
5. Division of Boards
 - Boards Support Section, Executive Director
 - Field Offices: Dillingham, Kotzebue
 - Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Chair
 - Unit 22 AC, Northern Norton Sound
 - Unit 22 AC, Southern Norton Sound
6. Division of Subsistence
 - Assistant Director
 - Program Director, Fairbanks
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7. Public Communications Section, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
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 - Field Offices:
 - Unit 22: Nome
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9. U. S. Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - BLM, State Director
 - BLM, Anchorage District
 - Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Mgr.
 - Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Subsistence
 - Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Wildlife

- BLM, Fairbanks District
 - Unit 22/23 Central Yukon, Mgr
 - Unit 22/23 Central Yukon, Wildlife
- Fish and Wildlife Service
 - FWS, Regional Director
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 - FWS, OSM Regional Advisory Councils, Coordinators
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 - FWS, Refuges
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 - NPS, Park Unit, Superintendent
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10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate

Unit 22: Nome

11. I.R.A./Traditional Village Councils/Regional Native Corporations

Unit 22

- Bering Straits Native Corporation
- Kawerak, Inc., Natural Resources Department
- Kawerak, Inc., Reindeer Herders Association
- Kawerak, Inc., Subsistence Director
- Sitnasuak Native Corporation

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12. News Media: Statewide